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SUCH CIA ACTIVITIES WILL DAMAGE OUR IMAGE AND POLICIES

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RAY SCHERER: Michigan State University, it was disclosed this week, provided the support and cover for operations of the CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY in South Viet Nam from 1955 to 1959. It did so while operating a technical assistance program. Five CIA agents were fired, it was reported, when University officials learned who they were. This situation has disturbed some members of Congress, and one of them, Democratic Senator Fred Harris of Oklahoma, spoke out today from Oklahoma State College. Here is a report from WKY-TV, Oklahoma City:

GEORGE TAMIC: In a speech on the campus of Oklahoma State University this afternoon, Senator Fred Harris of Oklahoma sharply criticized the CIA for using University research projects abroad as covers, and called upon President Johnson to fire or reprimand those responsible.

SENATOR HARRIS: The story is not yet known, but I have asked the CIA officials to explain it to me in full, in a private meeting in my office Monday. President Johnson, I think, should make it positively clear to the CIA that they are expressly forbidden from using any university project abroad as a cover for their activities. Social and behaviorial science research in foreign countries can be very helpful both to us and to the host countries in the formation of policy. But in many instances, it is already suspect and under attack because it is thought to be some part of United States espionage or military activities.

There should be no use of infiltration whatsoever by the CIA into university research projects in foreign countries. To do that would be to involve the United States in unnecessary resentment and controversy and damage our image and foreign policy.

(TAMIC?): Harris added that any CIA use of any such projects would automatically cast doubts on the accuracy of all research on all such projects.